

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image region discrimination section in an image processing section, a characteristic signal calculation result obtained by hardware is subjected to macro-scoped correction and macro-discrimination by a processor. Further, in the image region discrimination section, a resolution and a signal bit number of a characteristic signals are decreased, the resultant characteristic signals is stored in a memory, and both a macro-discrimination result and the characteristic signals are synthesized to produce a final discrimination signal.